

Attorney Docket No. 20-137

In the Specification:

Please change the paragraph at page 17, lines 3 - 15 as follows.

-- An illumination method suitable for in vivo cellular observation is described hereafter with reference to Fig. 13. The tip of an illumination unit 30 that serves to illuminate an object and the tip of an objective optical system 31 that serves to form images on the image pickup surface of an image pickup element using light from the object are located at the tip 32 of an endoscope. The central axis L of the illumination field of the illumination unit 30 is substantially parallel to and shifted from the central axis F of the field of view of the objective optical system 31 by a distance d; thus, the center line of the illumination field and the center line of the objective optical system (i.e., of the observation field) are directed in substantially the same direction. The endoscope tip 32 is placed adjacent living tissue in order to observe the living tissue. The distance between a targeted region of the living tissue and the endoscope tip is adjusted so that the targeted region among the epithelial cells and parenchymal tissues which form the living tissue is "in-focus" (i.e., centrally located within the depth of field of the objective optical system). As shown in Fig. 13, the distance between the position of the epithelial cells 34 and endoscope tip 32 is X1 and the distance between the position of the parenchymal tissues 33 and the endoscope tip 32 is X2. --

Please change the paragraph at page 18, lines 14 - 21 as follows:

-- As shown in Fig. 13, the illumination light emitted from the endoscope tip 32 is transmitted through the living tissues at the light distribution angle $\omega 1'$ before it reaches the parenchymal tissues 33. After being reflected and scattered by the parenchymal tissues, the illumination light is emitted at the light distribution angle $\omega 2'$ and thereafter it reaches the epithelial cells at the in-focus region 34 and forms the illumination field L1b at a distance X1

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from the endoscope tip that includes the field of view F1 of the objective optical system. Consequently, uniform brightness is ensured in the field of view F1 of the objective optical system. Thus, an object placed in contact with a distal end of the observation unit so that a light source that does not directly illuminate an observation field of view illuminates an area of tissue outside the observation field of view, and the illuminated tissue scatters light from the light source so as to illuminate the observation field of view. The observation unit is then used to observe an image of the observation field with a scale factor larger than 1.